Sustained publicity efforts are being undertaken by the Air Force to attract talented and qualified youth into the offcers' cadre. Almost 3000 Schools and Colleges are on the mailing list for sending publicity material. Campus interviews are undertaken by qualified assessors from Selection Boards so as to interact directly with potential candidates and answer their queries about the service. Schools and Colleges are visited regularly for motivational talks.

Extensive publicity and recruitment drives are being carried out by the Navy. Motivation drives are conducted in various colleges/institutions in order to widen the scope of target population.

In addition, the commitment and bravery of the Armed Forces is consistently projected through the electronic and print media. The Directorate of Public Relations of Ministry of Defence regularly interacts with media persons while giving defence related information and endeavours to ensure positive publicity. Regular coverage of defence related events in the print and electronic media help in creating awareness among the masses and motivating the youth to join the Armed Forces. Websites are also operative on the Internet providing career information on the three Services.

Theft in DRDO

2351. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether theft of computers from a Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) Establishment in North Delhi has occurred in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any sensitive data relating to the security set-up had been lost in the incident;

(d) if so, whether Government have taken all precautionary measures to safeguard security set-up in the event of passing of such stolen sensitive data to the enemies of our country;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether Government made any arrests in this regard; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and action taken so far?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Eighteen central processing units were stolen from two of the DRDO laboratories located in Metcalfe House, Delhi in October 2003.

(c) DRDO has assessed and identified the stored data and found it to be of non-sensitive nature.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. All possible security measures have been put in place. Physical security measures have been strengthened. Access control measures have been installed in sensitive establishments of DRDO. Instructions issued by Computer Emergency Response Team, India and those issued by Ministry of Home Affairs regarding the computer related information security are strictly followed.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

Occupation of agricultural land by Army

2352. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large area of agricultural land is under occupation of Army for operational purposes on the Indo-Pak border in Punab;

(b) whether due compensation has been paid to the affected farmers; and

(c) the details of the compensation paid to farmers, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Certain lands of farmers on the Indo-Pak border in Punjab were occupied by the Armed Forces for laying of mines or other operational purposes. However, most of the land has since been returned to the farmers. Only 218.350 acres of land are still under Army occupation.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) District-wise details of compensation paid to farmers till date are given in the enclosed Statement.